

## WICKS SPEAKS UP A Warrior Against Trotsky

In the Daily Worker a few days ago, H. M. Wicks an editor and one of the pillars of the new Party leadership, devotes a part of his billingsgate to denouncing us as "counter-revolutionaries" and "renegades". Wicks is one of that horde of parasites who make their way in the International under Stalin by denouncing and slandering the revolutionary fighters, and Wicks, like many of the others, has had previous experience in this game which makes his task easier today. The only difference is that in earlier times they slandered us from outside the Communist ranks, while today, thanks to the temporary supremacy of Stalinism, they speak as officials of the movement. The essence of what they say about us and its import is essentially the same now as then: This newly-appointed guardian of Communism hurled just as vicious slander against us when we were fighting to build the Communist nucleus in the face of outside attacks as he does today when we are fighting against internal degeneration. In the days of the Palmer raids, when the Communists were being tested by fire, Wicks played the role of Judas. For the information of the Communist workers who are receiving their education nowadays from the Wickses, we reprint verbatim the following report contained in the Gary, Indiana, Post (now the Post-Tribune) of Thursday, March 25, 1920, pages 1 and 9:

### BARES UNDERHAND 'RED' PLOT TO USE UNIONS TO RUIN UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

H. M. Wicks of Chicago, a reformed Socialist, spoke on the revolutionary tendencies of the times to some forty Gary men last evening. Mr. Wicks established a Socialist local in Gary several years ago; he said he helped select Oscar Anderson as the leader of the Gary strike; therefore he did not appear to be an entire stranger.

He charged that the steel strike was wholly the work of the syndicalist movement. Violent minorities in the steel unions forced the strike against the wishes of the majority, he said. The majorities did not want to strike but were howled down by the leather-lunged minorities whose only argument was that the opponents of the strike were agents of Judge Gary.

### BREAKS WITH PARTY

Mr. Wicks has been a socialist in good standing until last fall when he openly broke with the Socialist Party. Previous to that time he had served as a member of the National Executive Committee of the Party. He said he was familiar with the work and attitude of the Socialists, I. W. W., Communists and all revolutionists.

With very few exceptions, he said, the radicals are not Americans. Most of the Socialists are people of foreign birth and citizenship and many of them do not even speak the English language.

### WORK FOR AMERICAN LEGION

Bill Haywood and his satellites should not be tolerated in this country, Mr. Wicks said, he had been advising American Legion members not to permit these vermin to talk to them, but to knock them down. That, he said, is the only language they understand.

The speaker charged that the Socialist Party was thoroughly pro-German during the war and is today controlled by the pro-German Victor Berger. He said Berger richly deserved the 20 year sentence meted out some time ago and he hoped the Milwaukee man would be forced to serve his time. He said if there ever was a traitor to his country Berger was it.

### NO USE FOR "REDS"

Mr. Wicks has no respect for Socialists or radicals of any sort. Having associated with them intimately for years he claims to know them exactly as they are and he says that they are all selfish opportunists who are simply after something for themselves.

He commended the deportation proceedings that have rid the country of many agitators and urged that other foreign trouble makers be given the same treatment. He urged an Americanization program for the foreign speaking workers and he said the American Legion is the one organization in the country which is doing good Americanization work.

### EXPELLED FOR DEFEAT

Mr. Wicks was especially severe of the brand of democracy that the various organizations subscribe to. He said when Victor Berger and Morris Hillquit were defeated by the Party vote they simply expelled many of the Socialists who voted against them and retained control.

He told of attending the congress of the Communist Party in Chicago where by use of a caucus about one-fourth of the delegates controlled the meeting.

Lenin is a dictator, and Emma Goldman and Ben Reitman would not dare to carry on the propaganda in Russia which they did carry on here. If they did it would be a firing squad for them.

The purpose of the revolutionists today is not democracy. They want the rule of the militant minority. Mr. Wicks charged that Syndicalism had been taken up in many instances by unions. He said there is no question about the syndicalism of Foster, who was secretary of the Steel Strike organization. He said he knew Foster personally and was positive that the late strike leader had not abandoned any of his syndicalist beliefs. He also stated that the radicals were simply biding their time to call another strike.

The speaker could not find words to describe his disgust for the I. W. W. He charged them with being cowards and the scum of the earth.

Mr. Wicks is preparing to tour the country on the

Chautauqua platform this summer in order to let the American people understand the true situation. He has given several years study to Sociology and is preparing to write two books on the problems of the hour.

He has broken away from the Socialists so recently that this may be the first notice some of them will have of his apostasy.

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Wicks is now a "big man" in the Party leadership, one of its spokesmen, a candidate for office in New York. He is one of the regenerated Lovestoneites to whom Foster, whom "he knew personally", has been fastened to make the new Party leadership. Wicks is also an editor of the Daily Worker. Perhaps after re-reading the above press story, he will use some of the valuable space of his paper to explain why the following notice appeared in 1921 in the "Official Bulletin of the Communist Party of America (Section of the Communist International)" Issued by the General Executive Committee, No. 2, on page 1, under the heading, "Some Important C. E. C. Decisions":

"The recommendation of an investigating committee that Harry Wicks shall not be admitted to the Party was approved. The information proves him to be absolutely undesirable within the Party ranks."

We brought up this matter of Wicks and his record once before in the Party. At that time he was shielded by Lovestone and Pepper, although Lovestone, in his "Appeal to the Comintern" now admits the truth. What will the "new leadership" do about it?

## Unity Front Is Broadened

In their endeavor to minimize the strength of the Lovestoneite Right wing in the Party, the official Party press has "neglected" to announce the following expulsions that took place a few days ago in the Chicago district of the Party: William F. Kruse, district organizer of the Party and recent graduate of Stalin's so-called "Lenin School"; Jack Deer, Rose Cohen, and Saal Held. The two latter were members of the Young Communist League.

Furthermore, half a dozen Party and League members have been expelled, in addition to those named by the Daily Worker, for supporting Lovestone at the N. Y. membership meeting. Edward Wright has been expelled from the Party, and therefore removed from his post as business manager of the Labor Defender. While Engdahl's name is officially published as editor of the Defender, the job is actually in the hands of a quill-pusher from the Daily Worker, Sol Auerbach, who has the twin virtues of obedience and ignorance. Carl Hacker is hanging by a hair in the I.L.D., and his being suspected of Lovestone support makes it certain that he will soon find himself on the outside. Already, his post as national assistant secretary has been taken over by George Maurer, as predicted in our last issue. Even the book-keeping of the I.L.D. has been made safe for the New Line by the removal of the Lovestoneite suspect, Anna Thompson and her substitution by Julius Codkind. Our list would be incomplete if it did not include the news that Beatrice Karlin, an excellent tennis and golf player, who is consumed with pain at the sufferings of the poor working class, has been attached to the staff of the Workers School.

## 2 New Opposition Papers

We are glad to chronicle the appearance of two new organs of the Bolshevik Opposition, both of which are assured of splendid futures and victory over huge obstacles. One is "The Proletarian" published in Shanghai by our comrades of the Chinese Opposition. We have received the first four issues of the paper, which is in small format, averaging 48 pages per issue. It is printed on a multigraph machine. The Chinese Opposition, like the American, is one of the youngest in the International. It has tremendous difficulties in its work, since it must encounter not only the official Party but the blood-thirsty dictatorship of the Kuo Min Tang.

The other is "The Bulletin of the Opposition (Bolshevik-Leninists)", published in the Russian language in Paris, for distribution mainly in the Soviet Union. It is a standard size magazine of 40 pages, and includes most of the recent writing of comrade Trotsky, letters from Moscow, and material on the problems of the International Opposition. It is the first organ of the Russian Opposition that has ever appeared. Details will be found elsewhere in this issue.

## A Victory for Us in Austria

Comrade Kurt Landau, leader of the Austrian Communist Opposition, writes us as follows:

"In April, the city council elections took place in Graz, the second largest city of Austria, where we have our main organization and where our paper, 'Der Mahnruf' appears. By tremendous sacrifices, we succeeded in raising the costs of participating in the election, and received 604 votes, beating the Stalinite list, which only got 104 votes. After the elections, the government, and above all the social democracy began an intensified pressure upon our Graz organization. Our comrades there, who are mostly unemployed for many years, have had the city unemployment relief withdrawn from them. The Graz printing shops refuse to print our paper. We are now obliged to establish our paper in Vienna."

Since this was written, the official Party in Austria has experienced another of its periodical crises, once more engendered by the machinations of the Master, Stalin. The Opposition is forging ahead.

## WORDS FORGOT Yaroslavsky on Trotsky

NOTE:—The official Stalinist press has lately suffered from a renewed bombardment against comrade Trotsky by one of the arch liars in the falsification factory: Yaroslavsky. Each new contribution made by Yaroslavsky to the distortion and misrepresentation practiced against the Opposition is distinguished only by its viler slanders, revolting demagoguery and more outrageous defamation. That such a person could have become the leading scribbler in the Comintern against the Bolshevik-Leninists is in itself a sign of decay. Comrade Trotsky has dealt with Yaroslavsky once and for all in his masterful letter to the Bureau of Party History where he exposes a few score of the lies made "popular" by Stalin and company in recent years. We take the following excerpt from that letter.—Editor.

Nine tenths of his slanders and falsifications Yaroslavsky dedicates to the author of these lines. It would be hard to imagine lies more confused and at the same time more spiteful. Do not make the mistake of thinking, however, that Yaroslavsky always wrote this way. No, he wrote quite differently. It was just as purple, it was in just as bad taste, but to exactly the opposite effect. In the spring of 1923, Yaroslavsky devoted an article to the beginnings of the political activity of the author of these lines. The article is a tumultuous panegyric, unbearable to read. It requires an effort to quote from it. Still it is necessary. In his character of inquisitor, Yaroslavsky takes a voluptuous pleasure in bringing face to face on the witness-stand Communists guilty of distributing the Testament of Lenin, the letters of Lenin on the national question, and other illegal documents in which Lenin dared to criticize Stalin. Let us bring Yaroslavsky face to face with himself.

### HOW YAROSLAVSKY ONCE WROTE

"The brilliant literary-publicistic activity of comrade Trotsky,"—so Yaroslavsky wrote in 1923,— "gained him the world-wide name of 'Prince of Pamphleteers.' The English writer Bernard Shaw described him thus. Whoever has followed his activity during the course of a quarter of a century, cannot but be convinced that this talent of the pamphleteer and polemic developed, grew, and blossomed with especial brilliancy during the years of our proletarian revolution. But even at the dawn of his activity, it was observable that we had before us an endowment most profound. All his newspaper articles were saturated with inspiration, they all partook of imagery, color, although they had to be written within the jaws of the vise of the czarist censorship, which defaced the bold thought and the bold form of every one who wished to escape from the grip of those jaws and raise himself above the common level. But so great were the ripening underground forces, so strongly was felt the beating of the heart of the awakening people, so sharp were the developing contradictions, that all the censors in the world could not stamp out the creative power of such a shining individual personality as was already in those days the figure of L. D. Trotsky.

"Probably many have seen the quite widely distributed photograph of the youth Trotsky when he was first sentenced to exile in Siberia—that boisterous head of hair, those characteristic lips and lofty brow. Under that head of hair, under that lofty brow, was boiling even then a turbulent stream of images, thoughts, moods—sometimes diverting comrade Trotsky a little from the great road of history, compelling him sometimes to choose a too long way round, or, on the other hand, to cut his way fearlessly through where it was inadvisable to go. But in all these searchings we had before us a deeply devoted revolutionary man, born to the role of tribune, with a tongue sharply whetted and flexible as steel, slaughtering his enemies, and a pen scattering in handfuls (!) like artistic pearls the riches of his thought."

### A "LEADER OF THE REVOLUTION"!

And further: "The articles at our disposal embrace a period of more than two years—from October 15, 1900, to September 12, 1902. The Siberian comrades read with delight these brilliant articles and awaited their appearance with impatience. Only a few knew who was the author, and those knowing him never guessed in those days that he would be one of the recognized leaders of the most revolutionary army and of the greatest revolution in the world."

And finally the conclusion:

"His protest against the pessimism of the demagnetized Russian intelligentsia (Ahem!) comrade Trotsky established later. Not in words, but in deeds he established it, shoulder to shoulder with the revolutionary proletariat of the great proletarian revolution. For this great powers were needed. The Siberian vilage did not destroy in him these powers. It only further convinced him of the necessity of radically breaking, to the foundation, that whole structure in which the facts described by him were possible." (Siberian Fires, Nos. 1 and 2, January and April 1923).

Although in some of his more recent appreciations comrade Yaroslavsky may have rounded the circle at 180 degrees, we must confess that in one respect he remains exactly the same: he is equally unbearable in slander and in praise.